

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1, 11-13, 15, 18, 19, 24, and 31-37 were rejected. Claims 2-10, 14, 16, 17, 20-23, and 25-30 were objected to and indicated as corresponding to allowable subject matter. Claims 1, 3, 6, and 9 have been amended.

The Examiner reiterated his rejection of claims 1, 11-13, 15, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0021694 A1 (Benayoun). The Examiner also rejected claims 19, 24, and 31-37 over Benayoun in combination with a variety of other references. These rejections have been respectfully traversed in previous responses. The arguments set forth in those responses are hereby reiterated by the Applicants and incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 2 and is now believed to be in condition for allowance. As mentioned above and as argued in previous communications, the Applicants believe claim 1 to be allowable over the art of record without amendment. Therefore, this amendment is being proposed to move prosecution of the present application forward and not for any reason related to patentability. The Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue claim 1 and any other claims supported by the present specification in related applications.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at (510) 663-1100.

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP

/Joseph M. Villeneuve/
Joseph M. Villeneuve
Reg. No. 37,460